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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,129	11/13/2001	Reiko Koshida	AD 6761 US NA	4807

23906 7590 07/27/2004

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WILMINGTON, DE 19805

EXAMINER

CAIN, EDWARD J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/053,129		KOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Edward J. Cain		1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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Claims 4 and 6-15 recite the limitation "said laser beam absorbing black colorant". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 4 and 13 recite "a transmission rate ratio". However, the expression in parenthesis is a product.

Claims 6 and 7 recite "the inorganic salts". It is not clear which inorganic salts are referred to.

Appropriate clarification is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muellich.

Meullich discloses compositions and methods for the production of plastic parts by laser welding. The compositions taught as suitable comprise black dye pigments and

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polyamide (claims 6 and 9). The plastic part is taught as produced from two separate plastic portions, each portion comprising polyamide and black dye pigment. In one portion, the dye pigment is adjusted so as to produce a transmission coefficient of greater than 60% while in the other portion the dye pigment is adjusted so as to produce an absorption coefficient of greater than 90%. These two portions are then irradiated with a laser beam of 1.06 um wavelength to fuse the two portions (column 7, line 29 to column 8, line 12 and claim 10).

Therefore, the reference anticipates the rejected claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 5-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meullich in view of Russell et al, Takeyama et al and Webber.

Meullich discloses laser welded plastic articles as discussed above. This reference fails to explicitly recite the use of polyesters, transmission rate ratios at 940 nm and the specific colorants as claimed instantly.

Russell et al teach the application of laser welding techniques for joining polyester components using carbon black as the laser beam absorbent.

Takeyama et al teach the use of a broad variety of coloring agents as the laser beam absorbing colorant (column 11, lines 36-55) in laser welding applications.

Webber teaches the wide use of each of applicants claimed dyes for coloring plastic compositions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute polyester for polyamide in the processes of Meulich when the article to be produced would advantageously be fabricated from this resin such as the articles of Russell et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize any of the dyes and pigments known in the art to be suitable for incorporation into plastic materials to produce a laser absorbing portion and a laser transmitting portion when the particular color properties of a given dye or pigment were desired.

Applicant's claimed transmission values at 940 nm are seen as inherent to some or all of the dyes and pigments taught by the secondary references since they encompass those claimed instantly.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward J. Cain whose telephone number is (571) 272-1118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

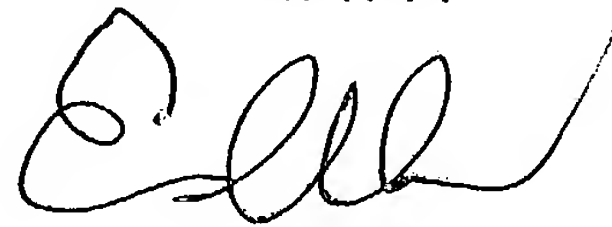
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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edward J. Cain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Cain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.